



To ensure a reliable flow of information to and from the site of a major derailment, CN Rail has developed the experimental communications trailer containing radio, telephone, telex and video systems.

mounted on the rear of the trailer. Its antenna is the link to three separate forms of radio communication: CN Rail's own multichannel system, any telephone company's mobile telephone system and the CB radio system. There are four portable radios for walkie-talkie communication at the site.

In addition, the command post can accommodate up to three telephone company circuits and two CN Rail dispatcher telephone links. The telex hook-up, complete with television screen, allows communication with any location on the telex network. It also enables the command post access to CN Rail's TRACS computer for information about the make-up of a train and the nature of the commodities carried, and taps into Canadian National's company-wide administrative message network.

Videotape equipment on *Mobile 1* will provide either direct feed to the trailer or remote taping for later playback.

The command post can travel to the derailment site by highway if the accident happened near a road. It also has its own flat-car for traveling to otherwise inaccessible points on the railway system.

The first command post will be located in Ontario where the heaviest concentration of dangerous commodity movements takes place. Similar units will be located in each of the company's five regions across the country.

Namibia question

Canada, along with France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and the United States — the five member governments of the "Contact Group" — are convinced that only a negotiated settlement accepted by the Namibian people, the South African government, the governments of front-line states and ultimately, the United Nations, can bring independence to Namibia, said Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations Gérard Pelletier in a statement to the plenary debate of the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, November 20.

Mr. Pelletier made the statement on behalf of the Contact Group, which has been working together during the past four years in an attempt to negotiate an internationally recognized settlement to the Namibian problem.

"As an alternative to a negotiated settlement, the Five see only an open-ended continuation of a war with all of the suffering this would entail," Mr. Pelletier told the Assembly.

The proposal of the Contact Group calls for the completion of three phases of negotiation which would lead to the beginning of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 in 1982.

Phase one

The first phase would be for the parties concerned to commit themselves to a set of constitutional principles designed to build the confidence of the parties concerned in the election process and in the future of an independent Namibia, said Mr. Pelletier.

Representatives of the Contact Group recently completed a mission that took them to Nigeria, Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. The representatives met with government officials and interested parties and organizations to present their proposed constitutional principles. Mr. Pelletier said that the document presented in Africa suggested "guidelines for the Constituent Assembly and set forth certain broad principles to be reflected in the constitution". The Contact Group has not attempted to write a constitution for Namibia, said Mr. Pelletier. That would be the task of a duly elected Namibian Constituent Assembly, he said.

In the second phase, the specific arrangements for the United Nations

Transitional Assistance Group would have to be agreed upon, according to the Contact Group. The group would make suggestions to "help ensure that the transition would be conducted in a fair and impartial manner". The third phase of the process would begin with a public commitment by all of the parties concerned to a date for the beginning of the implementation of resolution 435.

Response heartening

Mr. Pelletier said that the initial response to phase one by those concerned had been encouraging.

The Canadian ambassador also referred to a six-part resolution that had been drafted by the Council for Namibia. "This document is vituperative in tone, in its demands and unhelpful in the search for a negotiated settlement," said Mr. Pelletier on behalf of the Contact Group.

"It is the Contact Group's judgement that this resolution, if adopted would not contribute to the negotiations now under way and may be a hindrance to the achievement of the objective of those negotiations: the independence of Namibia," he said.

Food aid to Poland

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will provide \$100,000 in food aid to Poland.

The contribution will be provided to the Polish-Canadian Congress, which has been channelling relief to Poland for several months. The congress will use the grant to purchase, transport and distribute food, mainly skim milk powder, to the neediest in Poland.

Widespread food shortages are part of Poland's current economic crisis, strikes and social unrest. Agricultural production is down by 20 per cent and industrial production by 10 per cent. Lack of foreign exchange is curtailing imports of consumer goods and spare parts.

Senator Hazen Argue, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, recently announced that the credit limit for government guaranteed grain sales to Poland had been raised by \$500 million in order to permit Poland to continue to import Canadian grain.

A number of voluntary organizations such as CARE and Catholic Relief Services have also received permission to send relief to Poland.